

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 ARA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /089 W

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P R 171102Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8811

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS COMMENT ON ANGOLA HIGHLIGHTS CUBAN ROLE

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. PRAVDA (JANUARY 17) CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM CASTRO'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY JUSTIFIES CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE WAR IS BEING WAGED AGAINST IMPERIALISM, AND THAT CUBAN ASSISTANCE WAS IN RESPONSE "TO A REQUEST FROM THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT" OF ANGOLA "AFTER THE INVASION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN RACISTS." ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, CASTRO ADDED THAT CUBA DOES NOT REJECT THE "POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE US", BUT CUBA IS NOT RENOUNCING ITS INTERNATIONAL POLICY, AND ANY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS MUST BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRECEDED BY THE LIFTING OF THE AMERICAN "BLOCKADE."

2. PRAVDA'S OTHER COVERAGE OF ANGOLA IS BRIEF AND CONTNUES TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MPLA'S MILITARY SUCCESSES ON THE NORTHERN FRONT WHERE FNLA FORCES ARE REPORTEDLY FLEEING "IN PANIC" TOWARD THE ZAIRIAN BORDER. THE SAME REPORT STATES THAT ROBERTO HAS "DESERTED" HIS GROUP AND HAS FLOWN TO KINSHASA. AN ACCOMPANYING TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON REPLAYS THE STORY OF THE ALLEGED SECRET TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON TO NATO CONCERNING THE COMPLETE "BREAKDOWN" OF THE FNLA.

3. IZVESTIAY (JANUARY 16) CARRIES AN EXTREMELY FLATTERING EDITORIAL ON CUBA WHICH LAUDS HAVANAS'S SUPPORT FOR THE "JUST STRUGGLE OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE."

4. COMMENT- MOSCOW MAY WISH TO PLAY UP HAVANA'S ANGOLA ROLE AT THIS POINT TO DEFLECT ATTERNTION FROM ITS OWN. IN ANY CASE, PROMINENT REPORTING IN PRAVDA CLEARLY IMPLIES STRONG CONTINUING PUBLIC SOVIET SUPPORT FOR CUBAN ACTIONS.
STOESSEL

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